

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 FEAE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 /076 W

----- 051995

R 021659Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6181

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, UK, WG

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS HAILS SCHMIDT-WILSON TALKS

1. BRITISH PRESS DECEMBER 2 HAILED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S WEEKEND TALKS WITH HMG AS IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR NEXT WEEK'S EC SUMMIT, AND FOR THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF RE-NEGOTIATION. GIVING HIS VISIT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT, THE QUALITY PAPERS DREW ATTENTION TO SCHMIDT'S PRE-DEPARTURE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE CONCEDED THAT THERE

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WAS "ROOM FOR MANEUVER ... ROOM FOR COMPROMISE" ON THE

SUBJECT OF BRITAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE EC BUDGET.
THEY SPECULATED THAT SCHMIDT AND WILSON HAD REACHED AN
UNDERSTANDING ON THIS KEY ISSUE DURING THEIR LENGTHY
DISCUSSIONS AT CHEQUERS SATURDAY EVENING (NOVEMBER 30)
AND SUNDAY MORNING.

2. BESIDES RENEGOTIATION, THE TWO LEADERS REPORTEDLY
HAD DEEP AND SEARCHING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WORLD ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS, UNEMPLOYMENT, ENERGY CONSERVATION, AND THE
RE-CYCLING OF PETRO-DOLLARS. THE CHANCELLOR AFTERWARDS
EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WITH THE ECONOMIC DIS-
CUSSIONS. ALSO PRESENT AT CHEQUERS FOR THE WEEKEND WERE
FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER
HEALEY, DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON, AND ECONOMIC ADVISOR
HAROLD LEVER.

3. COMMENT: SCHMIDT'S MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE AT THE
LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE (SEE SEPTTEL), AND THE MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING APPARENTLY ACHIEVED AT CHEQUERS, HAVE GIVEN
BRITISH PRO-MARKETEERS THEIR BIGGEST FILLIP IN A LONG,
LONG TIME. IT HAS REVIVED THEIR HOPES THAT WILSON, WITH
THE HELP OF THE EC-8, MAY YET CONTRIVE TO ESCAPE FROM
THE RENEGOTIATION BOX HE FASHIONED FOR HIMSELF.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BUDGETS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON15718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740349-0143
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741268/aaaacgfn.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH PRESS HAILS SCHMIDT-WILSON TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, UK, GE, EEC, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), (WILSON, HAROLD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005